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CBC NEWSLETTER

for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

Volume 45 September/October 1999 Number 5

Beaufort in Winter

First meeting of the new Millennium

Beautiful Beaufort by the bay in South Carolina's Lowcountry is the site of the first CBC meeting of the new millennium. Winter birding opportunities abound. There are shopping opportunities for non birding spouses and a bounty of seafood to be eaten at great restaurants. Mark your calendars now for **January 28-30, 2000**.

As in past meetings in Beaufort, we will be using the Holiday Inn for accommodations. Meetings will be in the TEC student center, about a mile from the motel.

Since the Holiday Inn is heavily used by family and friends attending Marine Corps boot camp graduation exercises, early reservations are recommended. The room rate is $74.46 tax included. Contact the motel at (843) 524-2144 or use the reservation form included in the newsletter.

George and **Judy Halleron** are lining up some great places for us to go birding. We will also have a boat trip in the ACE Basin again. A smaller boat will explore a different part of the ACE including an old plantation. Of course we have gotten permission to go into Spring Island again as well as Paris Island Marine Base. Field trip descriptions and registration forms will appear in the November/December newsletter.

For further information contact SC Member at Large **Van Atkins**, (803) 766-7000, e-mail: vatkins@awod.com.

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LIBRARIES

Pardue Names Committee to Review Publications

Ballooning costs for Carolina Bird Club publications forced the CBC Executive Committee to recommend a dues increase to be voted on at the fall meeting September 24-26, 1999, in Charleston, SC. To ensure that all possible steps were being taken to hold down costs, CBC president **Len Pardue** announced the appointment of a Publications/Information Committee at the Executive Committee retreat August 21, 1999, in Durham, NC., to review the club's publications and other information services.

Pardue emphasized that he was not being critical of the editors stating "We're blessed with excellent publications and skillful and dedicated editors. The newsletter and *The Chat* are incredibly important to the club's membership. Without the timely and informative content they provide, the club's value to members would shrivel. So we undertake this effort from a base of strength."

Named to the committee by Pardue were **Charlotte Goedsche** of Asheville, NC, chair; **Patricia Tyndall** of Wake Forest, NC; and **Bert Fisher** of Durham, NC. Two additional members were to be appointed by the editors of *The Chat* and the *CBC Newsletter*. The newsletter editor has appointed **Eloise Potter** of Zebulon, NC, editor emeritus of *The Chat*. The name of the member appointed by the editor of *The Chat* was not available at the time of publication.

In his charge to the committee, Pardue outlined the following points to be addressed by the committee:

1. Propose ideas for strengthening the newsletter and *The Chat*.. Can we find reasonable steps to make them even more useful and appealing? These could involve creating new features, changing design or making additional assistance available to the editors. Any suggestions should be practical and manageable.
2. Search for ways to contain or reduce publication expenses without harming quality or reducing frequency.
3. Search for ways to ensure timely delivery of the publications, particularly the newsletter.
4. Consider the question of articles about and Web site links to commercial tour companies.
5. Consider Russ Tyndall's superb Web site and how we can increase its use. What are the possibilities of features for members only?
6. Evaluate the CBC Rare Bird Alert and consider ways to strengthen it. Have calls dropped off noticeably with the advent of Carolinabirds listserv? What should CBC's relationship with Carolinabirds be?

Members are invited to submit their ideas and suggestions to the chair at 8 Cricket Ln, Asheville, NC 28801, (828) 252-4037, goedsche@buncombe.main.us.

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CBC Newsletter

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Carolina Bird Club, Inc.

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CBC Rare Bird Alert

(704) 332-BIRD

Eagles Hunting Ducks

by J. C. Raymond

The American Bald Eagle is a lazy critter. They are known to prefer stealing fish from other birds, rather than hunting their own. But I have seen eagles hunting Baldpate Ducks and expending a lot of energy doing it at Bear Island, Colleton County, South Carolina.

When the eagles approached, the ducks rose up in a large flock, swirled around a few times and landed again just about in the same spot on the pond. Apparently the ducks feel less vulnerable in the air than sitting on the water. On the other hand, if only one or two eagles approach, the ducks have a different defensive strategy. Just as the intended prey was about to be seized in the eagle's talons, the duck submerged, leaving the eagle nothing to grasp except water. Dabbling ducks can indeed go under water for a short time in an emergency. Now in this event the eagle might do one of two things. The eagle might continue its flight, moving on, and gain some altitude for another swoop on another duck, which is what they usually do. Or the eagle might deploy its air brakes and hover stationary like a helicopter over the spot where the duck went down. Unlike grebes, loons and true diving ducks, these ducks cannot stay submerged very long and return to the surface in just about the same spot they went down.

We know that hummingbirds hover while sipping nectar from a flower, and kingfishers hover while hunting for fish. Probably not too many people have watched eagles hover. For a large bird like a heavy eagle to hover, there must be a great expenditure of energy, and we must suspect that eagles are reluctant to spend their energy doing it. But if the eagle perseveres, there is a good chance that when the duck surfaces it will be grasped in the eagle's talons.

When this happens the eagle does not use the alternate talon contractions to kill the duck, like a wine maker pressing grapes with his feet, which is how hawks kill land prey. Instead the eagle merely holds on, and with its superior weight pushes the duck under the water and drowns it.

The eagle's chore is far from over. It cannot open up the duck and eat it standing there afloat. Somehow it must get its prey to solid ground in order to eat it. Eagles of course, are strong fliers, but not when they are carrying a heavy load. The eagles were never able to lift the duck more than about a meter above the water surface. I believe the eagles were unable to fly without the help of ground effect. Even at that, the eagles often dropped the duck into the water, whereupon the eagle immediately rose to a cruising altitude, forgetting the lost duck.

Sometimes the eagles were able to get their duck to one of the small tussock covered islets in the middle of the pond, and then they immediately tore open the carcass and began feeding. However, the hunter's troubles were not over. We have mentioned that eagles do not like to spend energy in sustained hovering flight, and we have mentioned that eagles prefer to steal from another bird rather than hunt their own prey. Well, this often happened to the eagles feeding on the tussock islets! A second eagle would dive onto the feeding eagle, trying to drive it away from its meal. Then the original bird would dive onto the intruder. This would go on until one bird gave up and flew away leaving the victor to its meal. There was always so much wing flapping and talon thrusting that I was never able to tell whether the thief was able to steal the meal or not.

When a duck was captured, the other ducks immediately regained their composure and continued on as if nothing had happened. Also if a traveling eagle approached the pond, the ducks would show alarm at first, but would almost immediately realize that the eagle was simply passing by and not hunting. Birds are the world's best ornithologists!

CBC Web Site

http://members.aol.com/cbirdclub

Backyard Birding

with Frances J. Nelson

September 8, 1999. Today when I was driving along I-85 on my way home from work, I crossed Falls Lake just before my exit. At the north end of the bridge a Bald Eagle flew across the highway in front of me. The sun was shining on the bird and it was the most brilliant black and white. Its yellow feet, legs, and bill were also gleaming. I pulled over and whipped out my binoculars, but the bird had disappeared by then. It was one gorgeous spectacle. The bird was flying along the tree line at the edge of the lake so I know it went through someone's backyard somewhere along the way. Although our backyard has boasted no eagles, we have had a few nice visitors. After we'd been home from Texas/Oklahoma for about two weeks, the regular birds returned. A Pine Warbler came to the suet and continues to come with at least two buddies, in varying shades of maturity.

On July 12 we added a White-breasted Nuthatch to our list. That nuthatch has stayed around (we never had them in the summer at our house just five miles from here) and has been joined by Brown-headed Nuthatches, who also stayed away from the other house in the summer. Until this year, I had always thought of nuthatches as winter birds.

Just last week, our Blue Grosbeak returned. We had seen him on the platform feeder pretty regularly before we left in May, but he didn't venture back until a few days ago. Maybe he had found a better offer, or maybe he was waiting around to see if we were really going to keep his feeder stocked, or maybe we just kept missing him. I doubt the latter is true because we keep a pretty close watch on the feeders. Also, last week, CJ saw a young male Summer Tanager sitting on top of the tube feeder. At our other place, the tanagers liked our marvel meal, but I haven't made any of that since we've been here. Maybe I should try a batch just for the tanagers.

A new bird at our feeder, but not in the yard, is a Blue Jay. We have one who likes our suet, and it's funny to watch it try to rest on the suet feeder. He/she usually lands on the deck railing, studies the feeder a few seconds and then hops to the top of the feeder which is hanging on a swing-arm type contraption. The feeder, of course, swings and the Blue Jay holds on for dear life. Once the feeder stops, the jay leans over and gets a pinch of suet. His effort hardly seems worth the minuscule bit of suet he gets, but I guess he likes it because he keeps coming back for more.

We've also had the regulars: Downy Woodpecker, hummingbird, titmouse, chickadee, cardinal, and House Finch (yuk). Two days ago, we had a couple of goldfinches still in their summer plumage, but it had been a while since we'd seen any on the feeders.

In the last newsletter, I talked about visiting some friends in the NC mountains who had oodles of hummers. We visited them again the end of July. They still have their hummers, but we witnessed an interesting exchange. Amidst all of the hummingbird activity at the feeders, a Red Admiral butterfly decided to check out one of the feeders. He landed on a "flower" and began drinking. The hummers were not happy. They chattered and flew down at the butterfly until they finally ran the butterfly away. But not for long. The butterfly gathered his strength and headed back to the feeder where he dined, ignoring the antics and charges of the hummers, until he was full. Then he lazily flew away. We only saw one butterfly do that and only one time. The feeder owners had never seen it before either. I guess the butterfly just had to prove he could do it–Jonathan Livingston Butterfly, I guess.

And that's it for this meager little column this time. Please, please, please send your backyard bird stories or this column may have to stop. Send them to: *Frances Nelson, 2061 Ferbow Street, Creedmoor, NC 27522. Phone: (919) 528-1156 E-mail: fjnelson@gateway.net*

Project FeederWatch Needs You!

Now that the chilly winds of fall are upon us, it's time to bring out those bird feeders - and join Project FeederWatch! "FeederWatch" is one of several citizen-science projects conducted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology that invite bird enthusiasts of all skill levels to put their observations to work for science and conservation. "FeederWatchers" count the numbers and kinds of birds that visit their feeders every two weeks (or weekly, if you submit your data online!) from November through early April. They learn more about birds, bird-feeding, and bird behavior while contributing valuable data to researchers at the Cornell Lab.

We expect that the upcoming FeederWatch season might be especially interesting. If previous patterns reported by FeederWatchers hold true, winter finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches are likely to leave their wintering grounds and make a showing into areas much farther south. Just as important, we need your observations of common species - chickadees, woodpeckers, cardinals. When we combine these with FeederWatch observations from all over the country, we can determine population and distributionchanges.

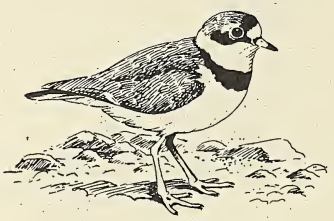
The $15 participation fee covers the cost of materials, which include bird-feeding tips, a colorful feeder bird poster, and access to the PFW listserv, where FeederWatchers from across the country share their questions, answers, and experiences with birds. Call toll-free (800) 843-BIRD. Visit us on the web at http://birds.cornell.edu/pfw/

Project FeederWatch is conducted in partnership with the National Audubon Society, Bird Studies Canada, and the Canadian Nature Federation. *Allison Wells, Cornell Lab of Ornithology.*

Birding The Las Vegas Valley

by Steve Shultz

What do you think of when you hear "Las Vegas"? Gambling, neon, and a plethora of bad Elvis impersonators quickly come to mind, but do you ever think of birds? Maybe not, unless you are, as I am, a bit too avid of a birder. My recent trip to the desert southwest reinforced that Las Vegas can be a great area for birds and birders. Following are some observations from our trip in August:



August 22: Our first morning in Las Vegas. What do we do first? Eat at the buffet, ride the roller coaster at New York, New York, drop some coins in the slots? Nope, we are heading directly to the Henderson wastewater treatment plant, also known as the Henderson Bird Preserve. The folks in Henderson have done a great job making this facility bird and birder friendly. Visitors can meander among thirteen settling ponds on gravel and handicapped accessible paved trails. Kiosks in strategic locations point out species one can expect to see, and give information on the lives and habits of some of the residents. A brand new visitor center offers reports of recent sightings, a folder-sized checklist, loaner binoculars, and cold water for your return from the trails.

Henderson is located within the Las Vegas metropolitan area, just southwest of town. The birding action starts almost immediately upon our arrival when we spot our "Most Wanted" bird for the trip before we even leave the visitor center! Two Wilson's Phalaropes spin into sight from behind the reeds in pool #1, the first of scores we would see at the preserve. Our day already made, we explore the 12 other reedy ponds. Breeding plumaged Eared Grebes, Cinnamon Teal, blue-billed Ruddy Ducks, and several species of shorebirds provide a spectacle on the water while Gambel's Quail, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Abert's Towhees and Bewick's Wrens peek out of the vegetation surrounding the ponds. Black-tailed Jackrabbits zip in and out of cover while the occasional Roadrunner cruises by at high speed. Normally one or more ponds are kept partially drained to provide habitat for migrating shorebirds. During this visit, however, the ponds are all near capacity making shorebird habitat scarce. Nonetheless, we are able to spot both Yellowlegs, Least, Western and Solitary Sandpipers, and Semipalmated Plovers. Pond number 13 is shallower than the rest and harbors a variety of wading birds. Dozens of Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, White-faced Ibis and Black-crowned Night Herons carry out operations among the reeds. All of this fabulous birding occurs within sight of the famous Las Vegas Strip! My mother-in-law is already looking forward to telling her friends that the first thing she did in Las Vegas was to visit the sewage plant!

One may think that I had gotten enough birding in by the time we leave Henderson and visit the massive Hoover Dam in Boulder Canyon. But, as the tour guide explains the inner workings of the powerstation, my attention is drawn to the Common Merganser swimming downstream from the dam. Swallows and cormorants abound, each taking advantage of the food concentrated around the dam. I remember that this is often a great place for waterfowl in the winter. Goldeneye can be found in the turbulent waters downstream of the tailrace, while puddle ducks and divers are often found just upstream in Lake Mead. In fact, this is one of only two places I've seen wigeon and Redheads close enough to touch.

August 23: Our first stop on the way to Yosemite National Park is the Desert NWR's Corn Creek station at the foot of the mighty Sheep Mt. range. Corn Creek is a series of oases and associated vegetation 20 miles north of Las Vegas. The lofty Sheep Mountains squeeze the remaining moisture out of the parched air, and the water eventually seeps above ground in places like Corn Creek. The springs have been impounded to form three ponds that provide open water year round. This area is managed specifically for a small fish found only here and in two other protected areas nearby. The open water and lush foliage make Corn Creek an attractive stop for migrating birds as well as a breeding area for resident birds.

Warblers are flitting from tree to tree as we arrive. We quickly spot half a dozen Yellow Warblers before a grey-hooded warbler pops into sight; it's a MacGillivray's! The bird forages in plain slight for a few minutes before being joined by a pair of companions. If only our eastern counterpart, the Mourning Warbler, would be so accommodating! Tracy quickly finds a Sora creeping along the edge of one of the ponds. This bird, and a Northern Waterthrush I find a few minutes later, end up listed on the Southern Nevada RBA as both are unusual for the area. Corn Creek really is a great place to bird, the proximity of desert scrub to the more park-like setting of the oasis attracts many birds. We have great views of Phainopepla, Crissal Thrasher, Bullock's Oriole, Western Tanager, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird and more. A very rare Red-shouldered Hawk wheels overhead on several occasions. The Desert NWR usually only gets one or two sightings of this species each year. Now it's off to Yosemite, but that's a story for another time! **(continued next page)**

Las Vegas (continued)

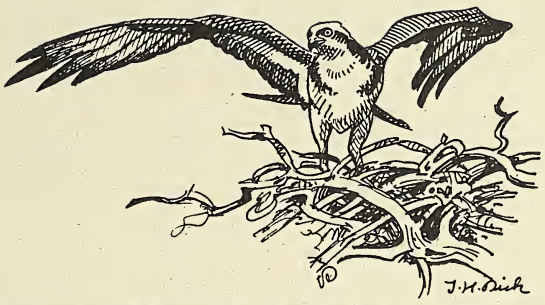
Birding opportunities in the Las Vegas valley abound in addition to the areas described above:

- **Mt. Charleston**, towering to nearly 12,000 feet, affords the opportunity to view more high-altitude species such as Pinyon Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Golden Eagle, Red-breasted Nuthatch and western hummingbirds. During the summer the temperatures are often 30 degrees cooler than on the valley floor. Snow lingers until late May. During many parts of the year one can easily leave shorts and tee-shirt weather on the valley floor and bundle up in a coat and hat for a romp through the snow atop the mountain.

- **Tule Springs State Park**, just north of town, provides great waterfowl viewing in the winter. The park is home to many species of ducks, geese, and grebes. One or more Ross's Geese have overwintered in recent years. Even non birders enjoy the spectacular male peacocks strutting around the ponds.

- **Red Rock Canyon**, just west of town, provides easy access to desert species in a stunning setting of petrified red sand dunes. We often see Anna's Hummingbirds here, most often in the winter. A thirteen-mile loop road affords stunning vistas and myriad hiking opportunities. Wild burros are occasionally seen in the canyon.

The next time you head west to experience some of the attractions only Las Vegas can offer, don't forget to pack your binoculars!



Noted bird artist and CBC member, John Henry Dick of Meggett, SC, who died recently, was always generous in sharing his art with CBC through its publications.

SC Bird Records Committee Named

The Carolina Bird Club Executive Committee approved the nomination of the members of the SC Bird Records Committee for 1999-2000 at its August 21, 1999 retreat in Durham, NC. Chairman **Lex Glover** of Lugoff, SC, submitted the following names through president Len Pardue: **Giff Beaton**, Marietta, GA; **Tim Kalbach**, Columbia, SC; **Taylor Piephoff**, Charlotte, NC; Will Post, Sullivan's Island, SC; **Simon Thompson**, Skyline, NC; and **Steve Wagner**, Greenwood, SC.

The Executive Committee also received the report of Chairman Lex Glover on the activities of the 1998-99 SC Bird Records Committee. He indicated that the committee had received approximately 17 reports, of which eight are awaiting circulation to the committee. Some of the most notable reports were:

Northern Fulmar - a specimen provided the first documented for SC and the southern-most documented occurrence for the Atlantic coast of North America.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck - second record for the state and first state record of breeding.

Franklin's Gull - last record was about 20 years ago.

Blackpoll Warbler - first winter record for the state and region.

Trumpeter Swan - first state record.

Black-chinned Hummingbird - second state record.

Gull-billed Tern - earliest date.

In other action taken at its retreat, the Executive Committee set tenative future meeting dates and locations: Jan. 26-28, 2001 - Atlantic Beach, NC; April 27-29, 2001 - Sandhills of NC; Sept. 21-23, 2001 - Santee, SC; Jan. 25-27, 2002 - Nags Head, NC; May 3-5, 2002 - Kanuga, NC; Sept. 27-29, 2002 - Litchfield Beach, SC.

Ventures, Inc. Web Site Up and Running!

Point your browser to http://www.birdventures.com to check out the new Web site created by Megan McNeill and Les Willis for Ventures, Inc., birding and natural history tour company run by CBC member Simon Thompson.

Some upcoming dates and tour destinations which may be of interest: Nov. 23-Dec. 7, Galapagos Cruise + Andes birding extension; Jan. 18-25, Puerto Rico; Feb. 2-6, Niagara Falls (gulls, owls and winter finches); Mar. 10-25, Costa Rica; Mar. 29-Apr. 9, Texas Hill Country and the Lower Rio Grande; April 15-19, Dauphin Island, AL (Spring migration weekend); May 2-4, Snowbird Lodge, Robbinsville, NC; May 20-Jun 2, Northern Spain (birds, wine and history)

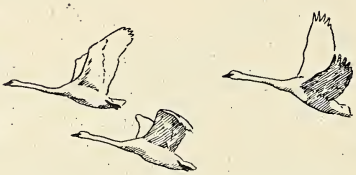
CBC Fall and Winter Field Trips

Lake Mattamuskeet **November 20, 1999**
Leader: Brad Carlson **Limit:** 20 participants **Cost:** $15

Meet at 8 a.m. near the southern end of the causeway (Highway 94) over Lake Mattamuskeet at the Refuge entrance sign. Park on the road shoulder at the edge of the lake. We will bird the impoundments near the causeway, and then work our way north along the causeway. Time and participant dependant, we may walk a portion of the Lake Landing impoundments.

Bring a lunch and drinks, but we will stop in Fairfield for snacks if necessary.

Lake Mattamuskeet is usually at its best for waterfowl in mid-November. In



addition to waterfowl highlights like Eurasian Widgeon and Ross's Goose, we will look for Bald Eagle, Yellow-headed Blackbird and lingering passerines. All of these species have been seen in this time frame in the past two years.

For those wishing to spend the night before or after the trip near Lake Mattamuskeet, there are a couple of small motels in the vicinity. Motel and restaraunt information will be provided when you sign up for the field trip.

Registration: To reserve space contact Brad Carlson by November 6 by E-mail at BCar105390@aol.com, or by phone in the evening until 10:00p.m. at (252) 321-8285. Send check and registration form to CBC headquarters at the address indicated on the form in this newsletter.

Special Note

The Swan Quarter Service Group and Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge personnel and volunteers invite Carolina birders to attend the 6th annual **Swan Days Festival**, December 4 and 5, 1999. The event celebrates the return of the Tundra Swans and other waterfowl to their winter home on Lake Mattamuskeet.

Highlights of the two day event are guided wildlife tours, workshops, book signings and historic presentations. Local arts and crafts vendors offer a pre-Christmas shopping opportunity. Local civic groups prepare a noon meal on both days and other vendors have a varity of food for sale.

A Saturday night lecture and slide show will be held. All activities center around historic Mattamuskeet Lodge. The group donates proceeds from a variety of activities to be used for preservation and renovation of the lodge. To get on the service group's mailing list, write to P.O. Box 151, Swan Quarter, NC 27885 or e-mail them at: hydecocc@beachlink.com.

Outer Banks Winter Birds Workshop **January 14-16, 2000**
Leaders: John & Paula Wright, Phillip Cox
Limit: 20 participants (minimum age 16, minors must be accompanied by registered adult)
Cost: $40 ($35 for CBC members and Friends of the Museum) as part of a week-end package rate from First Colony Inn

Join us for a leisurely trip that combines bird watching with a taste of thehistory of Nags Head. The schedule includes two evening programs and a day-and-a-half of birding at Pea Island NWR and Cape Hattteras National Seashore. A visit to the Outer Banks at this time of year offers good opportunity to view wintering waterfowl, loons, gannets, herons and raptors.

The group will meet Friday at 8:00 p.m. in the library of the First Colony Inn, a

restored bed and breakfast offering special rates. The early morning ocean-watching and evening programs are held at the inn. The group will eat dinner together at a local restaurant on Saturday evening. Museum vans will be available for use during the field trip.

This popular trip has been jointly sponsored by the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and Carolina Bird Club since 1992.

Registration: To streamline the registration process, all participants on the birding trip must register by calling the First Colony Inn at (800) 368-9390 or (252) 441-2343. For more details about the trip, call John or Paula Wright (252) 756-5139 evenings.

Membership Application and Order Form

Name_____ Address_____
(If family membership, give name of each person included.)

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Tel.. ( )_____ ( )_____
(home) (business)

E-mail address_____

Enter/Renew Membership As Indicated:

____Individual ($15)
____Family ($20)
____Student ($10)
____Library/Institution ($15)
____Affiliate Club ($20)
____Contributing ($35)
____Patron ($50)
____Life ($250)

Send Materials Indicated:

____CBC Cloth arm patch $2.00 ea. .
____CBC Decals (vinyl stick-on) $2.00 ea., $1.75 ea. in quanity
____Checklists 10/$1.75, 25/$5, 50/$9.50, 75/$12.75, 100/$16

Make check payable to **Carolina Bird Club, Inc.** and mail to PO Box 2955, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

Motel Reservation Form

Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting, January 28-30, 2000

Name(s)_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Please reserve a room for me at the Carolina Bird Club meeting rate of $74.46 including tax. Arrival_____ Departure_____
My check for the first night's lodging is enclosed.

Mail with deposit to **Holiday Inn**, P.O. Box 1008, U.S. Highway 21, Beaufort, SC 29902 or call (843) 524-2144

Registration Form

Carolina Bird Club Fall Field Trip

Name(s) _____
(list names of all participants)

Address _____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Telephone (_____) _____ (home) (_____) _____ (work)

E-mail _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $_____ for _____ participants in the **Lake Mattamuskeet** field trip ($15 each). **I have called the trip leader to ensure that space is available.**

Mail with check payable to **Carolina Bird Club, Inc.** P.O. Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

Carolina Bird Club, Inc.

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Welcome New Members

Benedict R. Berry
Charlotte, NC

Barbara Carter
Cary, NC

Highlands Biological Station
Highlands, NC

Christopher E. Hill
Conway, SC

Alice B. Jones
New Bern, NC

Helen & Del Smith
Pisgah Forest, NC

Olivia J. Smith
Charleston, SC

Life Members

Susan Campbell
Whispering Pines, NC

Bert Fisher & Leto Copeley
Durham, NC

Dwayne & Lori Martin
Claremont, NC

Susan & Lewis Pulsipher
Linden, NC

Deceased Members

John Henry Dick
Meggett, SC

Dr. Edward Lowry Shuler
Westminster, SC

Paris Trail
Edenton, NC

Good News for Piping Plovers!

(Editor's Note: the following information was posted on Carolinabirds by CBC member John Fussell of Morehead City, NC)

9 September

Today, I saw an article and aerial photo of Core Banks, opposite the town of Atlantic. A new inlet, at the location of "Old Drum Inlet," has broken through the barrier island. It is a very large inlet, likely to remain at least a few years. It is located about two miles north of the existing New Drum Inlet. So, there is a two mile long section of Core Banks that will probably not be accessible to four-wheel-drives next summer.

Also evident in the aerial are lots of major overwash fans, apparently extending into the estuary. Piping Plovers should do very well in this area next breeding season.